

A Publication of News and Events

The challenge is to maintain quality of life here, which can't be duplicated anywhere I know. We have so much to lose if we don't make the right decisions. We know growth is inevitable. The question is how we should shape that growth and control its pace. There's no place on God's earth that can compare with pleasant living on the Eastern Shore.

Tom Duncan, Talbot County Council (from "Tom Duncan: Oxford's Man for All Seasons" by Carlton E. Spitzer, The Star Democrat, 5/10/2004)

Searching for insight into the mentality of the Trappe Town Commission and why the seeds for future residential and commercial growth are being planted, one might look to the town budget, which equates the town to a young working family living paycheck to paycheck just to put food on the table.

Chris Williams (Star Democrat, 5/28/2003)

I have lived in Trappe all of my life. Lately, I have been doing a lot of reading about the town's history. I have even found shards of pottery, blue glass of old medicine bottles from a time when we had our own pharmacy, and pieces of the old brick sidewalks. Actually, the original sidewalks were made of wood. Trappe has a rich history that should be appreciated and preserved.

Lois Baker

These are the good old days.

Carly Simon

Entry Scheme TRAPPE EAST Talbot County, Maryland May 19, 2004



At the May meeting of the Planning Commission, the development team of Robert D. Rauch and Nicholas Rocks presented formal plans for the first phase of Trappe East, a nine-phase residential and commercial development over roughly 420 acres. John Monahan of Design Collective is working with the developers and presented the commission with sketches and maps for the initial phase of the project. Over the past few months, the developers have been working with state agencies on wastewater, water and Route 50 access issues, as well as wetland delineation, traffic impact studies, and an extensive archeological and historic study. Mr. Rauch indicated that initial construction should begin on the northern end of the development in spring of 2005, with construction of a wastewater treatment plant estimated to begin in early 2006. The first homes will be started soon afterwards, with the first occupants projected to move in during late 2006.

Rauch explained that key elements of the development will include greenbelts which will help shape and form the land plan and set up the overall vision for Trappe East. As required by the Town's Comprehensive Plan, the project is designed around planned neighborhoods, each with its own supporting commercial district. Mr. Monahan described each neighborhood as being "recognizable and memorable," and will featuring a "neighborhood center" within a five-minute walk from the surrounding houses. The first phase will include a 15,000 square-foot community building that could have an indoor pool, gathering areas, sundry shops or a coffee café. Monahan also presented sketches showing how the use of different types of landscaping, signage, streetscapes and architecture will give each neighborhood a distinctive identity.

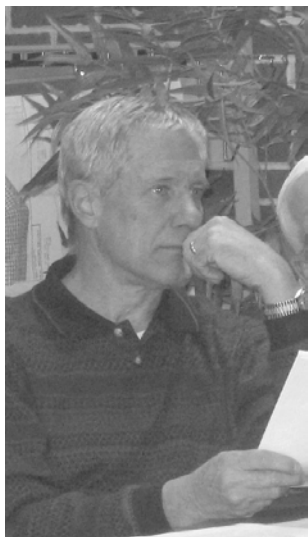
Trappe East will reflect the character of the region. Building designs in the development are inspired by Talbot County architecture. A mill-type building with a wheel modeled after Wright Mill will serve as an entryway to the development and gateway to the town. The entry scheme also includes fountains and water features, an orchard, wildflowers, and a trail, as well as a brick wall and culverts resembling structures at White Marsh ("Hole in the Wall") Church on Route 50. "We selected utilitarian features that are recognizable," Rauch said. "The idea is to get away from a commercialized sense and utilize features recognizable on the Eastern Shore."

The developers' object will be to provide a mixture of housing options. Rauch indicated that a large segment of the development will be dedicated toward an active adult market, along with other segments of townhouses, single and multi-story homes. Preliminary road plans were also presented to the commissioners. There will be a primary boulevard from which other streets, varying from lanes to alleys to trails, will extend and circulate. The plan also calls for a Village Center, to include a major grocery store. The retail portion of the development is hoped to be completed as early as possible, Rauch said.

Town Planner, Frank Hall, and the commissioners decided to postpone any vote on the proposal for at least one month to allow them time to review and consider the proposed plans. "You indeed listened to our recommendations and preferences," said Edgar Harrison, Planning Commission President. Overall, I'm very impressed with the presentation."

"I have worked on many projects around the world, and this one is really exciting. From the bottom of my heart, I am really happy with this project. You've got a great thing going," stated John Monahan of Design Collective.





MEET THE TOWN COUNCIL

Norman R. Fegel

By Ann Dorbin

It is critical for any commissioner to have a vision for Trappe. Norm Fegel

Norm Fegel was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. He has degrees in business administration and landscape architecture, both of which he feels have served him well in making the transition from planner to commissioner. He says he also brings good judgment and common sense to the table. He currently works for Easton Telcom installing and repairing commercial phone systems. For 14 years, he has lived on Rumsey Drive in Trappe with his wife Carol, who is a speech therapist for Talbot County Public Schools. They have two grown children, Justin and Sarah. Norm is a member of the Trappe Lions Club and is a leader of Boy Scout Troop #190, having been involved in scouting since he was a child.

Prior to being elected as a Town Commissioner, Norm served on the Planning Commission, where he helped write the Town's Comprehensive Plan, which has become the basis for future decisions on growth and development. As reflected in the Comprehensive Plan, Norm's vision is to seek a revitalized town while preserving what town residents love about the town they now live in. The plan calls for planned neighborhoods each with its own supporting commercial district. "Without bringing the designated growth areas into the town through the annexation process," Fegel says, "this type of development would not be possible. Annexation is good for Trappe because it gives the Town control over that land," he says. "Otherwise it would be developed as piecemeal

subdivisions through the county."

But Norm does not believe that the new development needs to be at the expense of the existing town. "Even though we have these new neighborhoods with their own small commercial centers that draw people together as a group," he adds, "you should still be able to come to old town Trappe and have a unique niche for that so that it maintains its character and it's not diluted by the development." One of Norm's priorities is the preservation and revitalization of the town's historic features. He is a strong advocate for the existing downtown section of Trappe, where in the future he hopes to see small-town businesses like barber shops, cafes, ice cream shops and professional offices for doctors, lawyers and real estate agents.

Norm says the town leadership's present biggest challenge has been to institute development regulations, design guidelines, architectural standards and zoning. "Once those are in place, our job is to hold the developers to those regulations and the comprehensive plan. It is important to maintain the continuity of the town leadership," he concludes. "We're the ones who have been working on this and have proposed these changes and the growth of Trappe— these issues did not happen overnight. I'd like to keep that flowing."

From The Town Office:

"When you look at the income we have compared to towns with a similar number of people, you'll see why we can't do what we need to do with the revenue we have to work with." Cheryl Lewis

It is that time of year again. You see it every time you look at our local paper...Budget Time. The proposed Trappe Town Budget was submitted for review at the May Town Commissioners meeting. A workshop and a public hearing were held in May and the budget will be discussed for approval at the June 2nd meeting. Trash collection currently accounts for 30% of our town budget and in an effort to more fairly distribute taxes collected to areas of need, the Town Commissioners are recommending a monthly trash pick-up charge of \$5 per residences. This will allow for the Commissioners to budget funding for street repairs and storm water collection improvements, two areas citizens have expressed concerns about.

We're on the Map! Two Trappe Sites Included in Washington Post Historical Tour Route By Jim Dawson, Unicorn Books

In an article titled "Road Trip—Harriet Tubman Birthplace" published in the May 2, 2004 Washington Post, Suzanne White detailed 14 places of interest along Rt. 50. Trappe received two hits with Trappe Landing Grain Co.'s 15 "majestic" steel silos holding 1.5 million bushels of grain and the Unicorn Bookshop with 30,000 volumes and antique maps. We're on the map!

There was some pretty stiff competition, too with the Radio and Television Museum in Bowie, egg wraps at the Double T Diner near Annapolis, and bloodworms at Island Fishing and Hunting on Kent Island. Trappe was mentioned twice, which is more than anyone else. Three times if you count the Choptank River Fishing Pier (where you could eat your Annapolis egg wrap, read your Unicorn Bookshop book and use your Kent Island blood worms).

FROM THE TOWN CLERK:

☺ ***Beginning in July, the Planning Commission will be holding two official Planning Meetings a month, on the second and third Wednesdays of every month. Official Planning Business will be conducted at both meetings, including reviews of submitted development proposals. Anyone wishing to be on the Planning Commission's agenda should contact the Town office same as always.***

☺ ***Warm weather has arrived, please remember to watch out for our young (& young at heart) who are outside playing!!!***

☺ ***The grass is growing again... keep your water meter areas clear to assist our town employees in reading your meter...***

☺ ***Trappe Pottery makes good last minute Father's Day gifts...pick-up your mug today!! Available at the Town Hall...***

The Index is now available online, along with lots of other local info. Visit the town Web site: www.trappemd.net Logon today!!

80 and counting!!

100 Things to Love About Trappe

(Here are a few, please send in your own until we reach 100)



- 76 Roadside chicken BBQ
- 77 Strawberry Festival
- 78 Our history in the tomato canning industry
- 79 Trappe High School reunions
- 80 Church gardens and gardeners

Congratulations!

Ben Diefenderfer, Justin Firth, John Foster & Danny McCracken completed the Pumps Class**Elizabeth Ferguson** received an award for her work with the Trappe UMC's New Neighbor Welcome program**Benson Harper** graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Business Administration and **Emily Whelan** received a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies from Salisbury University **Shaniya Frieson, Brian Watson, Jordyn Cahall, Carly Pepper, Cody Keyser, Travis Rahe, Brandon Watson, Beau Mayock, Mathew Stevens, Brandon Greene, Shawn Gustafson, Nicholas Horner, Garrett Leavy, Rachel Sard, Rebecca Treiber, and Garrison Willey** received Perfect Attendance Awards from White Marsh Elementary School for the 2003-2004 school year **Debbie Baynard** received White Marsh Elementary's second "Above and Beyond Award." Each year teachers and staff nominate their coworkers for this award. Mrs. Baynard is the school's administrative assistant **White Marsh Elementary School** received a grant of almost \$3,000 from the State's School Recognition Program. This award is based on the results of the 2003 Maryland School Assessment. White Marsh was one of three in the county and one of 528 (approx. 40%) in the state to receive this recognition. Congratulations are extended for the hard work and dedication that continues to provide a quality education for all students at White Marsh! **Lindsey Hill** and **April Byrnes** received Outstanding Junior & Sophomore Band Awards from the Easton High School Band Program. Lindsey and April play first-chair saxophone and first-chair clarinet, respectively ... Trishia Weise (Third Grade Teacher & students from White Marsh Elementary School participated in the Shorebirds "Hit the Books" program and presented the school's banner in a parade before the Shorebirds game last month.



Rev. Rodger Tilden conducts his final mass before his retirement from St. Paul's Episcopal Church---an outdoor Memorial Day service held at the site of the old White Marsh Episcopal Church on Route 50.

WELCOME TO THESE NEW RESIDENTS:

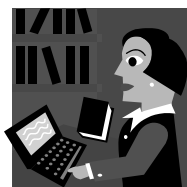


New House

Kenneth & Charlene Wilkins
Murrays Lane
William & Linda Wilson
Main Street

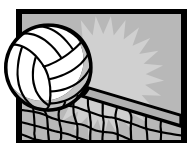
Do you know someone new to the neighborhood? Trappe United Methodist Church has a program to deliver a small Welcome Basket to

newcomers, including information about the area, schools, about local businesses, etc. Also included are baked goodies, a houseplant, or Trappe Book. Please contact Elizabeth Ferguson at 410-476-4858 with information about new residents. Businesses located in Trappe or owned by Trappe residents, may also contact Elizabeth about including (at no charge) information about their business in the Welcome Baskets. Note: donations of Trappe Books (any number) would be most appreciated.



for your summer reading enjoyment?

LATE BREAKING NEWS: It looks like the Talbot County Free Library Van will make a regular stop in Trappe this summer. Watch for more details as they become available. Better yet, if you see the van parked in town, stop in and check out a book! What could be easier



SPORTS PHYSICALS All High School students who plan on playing a sport in the 2004-2005 school year must have a current sports physical. Practices for Fall sports will start approximately August 16th. Don't wait to get your physical. Schedule an appointment in May or June with your Family Physician or the school Wellness Center.



Scotts United Methodist Church
After School Tutorial Program
Please Join Us

Thursday, June 10, 2004

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Scotts UMC Fellowship Hall

3748 Main Street

Trappe, MD 21673

410-476-3980

Hope to see you there!

The Walking Track should be

completed by early June, pending weather. Scoreboards are scheduled to arrive soon. Help is needed with installation. Please contact Skip Marvel 410-476-5250 or Bob Neimeyer 410-476-5244

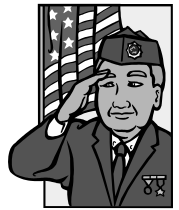


The Index is a publication of the Trappe Town Council. We welcome contributions and short articles that are of general interest to the community.

Events reported in The Index do not necessarily reflect the endorsement of the Town Commissioners. The Commissioners reserve the right to edit or reject any item submitted. Articles and photographs published in The Index are protected under U.S. Copyright Law and cannot be reproduced without the express written permission of the creator.

June 2004

Welcome Home
Senior Master Sergeant Robert Geist
after serving his country for 26 years with
the United States Air Force
We gladly welcome him back to Trappe!!!
Thank you for all you have done.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Please submit Calendar Events and News Items to the Town Office or call Ann Dorbin at 410-476-3910 or email tinman@friend.ly.net</p> <p>NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE is June 18, 2004</p>		<p>1</p> <p>SUMC 7:30 pm Mens's Bible Study</p> <p>Wed June 2nd WMES Field Day K-2 WMES 5th grade pool party EMS Principal's Honor Roll</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Trappe Public Hearing 7 pm Town Hall Trappe Town Meeting 7:30 pm Town Hall</p> <p>SUMC 11am Young @ Heart SUMC 2 pm Mid Day Bible SUMC 7 pm Evening Bible</p>	<p>3 WMES Field Day 3-5th EMS Honor Roll Field Trip</p> <p>SUMC 5:30 pm Youth Praise Dept.</p> <p>AA Mtg 6:30pm St. Paul's</p> <p>Trappe VFD Line Dancing w/ Steve Moody 7-10pm</p>	<p>4 EHS Finals Underclass EMS 6th & 7th Grade Awards Celebration WMES Field Day Rain Date</p> <p>St. Paul's Artist's Group 9:30 am</p> <p>Seven Sisters Quilting TVFD 7 pm</p>	<p>5 Trappe Fire Dept Yard Sale 7-12 & Chicken BBQ noon</p> <p>Trappe UMC Strawberry Festival 12-6 pm'</p> <p>St. Paul's Yard Sale</p> <p>EHS testing SAT 1-SAT 2</p> <p>SUMC Chicken BBQ</p>
<p>6 Talbot County Library Good Neighbor Day</p> <p>SUMC Annual Usher's Day All are Welcome 3:30 - 5pm</p>	<p>7 TCPS Last day of school 1/2 Day</p> <p>EHS Finals Underclass EHS Service Learning Hours Due</p> <p>EMS 8th Grade Awards Celebration 8-12</p> <p>WMES Talent Show 9:30</p>	<p>8 EHS Last day to sign up for Summer Service Learning Hours course (earn 32 hours)</p> <p>Trappe UMC 29299 Maple Ave Bible Study 1:15 pm</p> <p>TVFD Monthly Mtg 8pm</p>	<p>9 Trappe Planning Workshop 7:30pm</p> <p>Lion's Club TUMC 6:30pm</p> <p>SUMC 11 am Young at Heart SUMC 2 pm Mid Day Bible SUMC 7 pm Evening Bible</p> <p>Mid-Shore League of Republican Women 7-9pm at home of Rush Moody 28534 Granville Lane, Trappe Easton Mayor Robert Willey 'What is going on in Easton' Laura Damron 410-770-4818</p>	<p>10 SUMC 5:30 pm Youth Praise Dept.</p> <p>SUMC Open House After School Program</p> <p>AA Mtg 6:30 pm St. Paul's</p> <p>Trappe VFD Line Dancing w/ Steve Moody 7-10pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>St Paul's 9:30 am Artist's Group</p>	<p>12 Trappe UMC 7:30-10:00 am Country Church Breakfast</p> <p>SUMC Chicken BBQ</p>
<p>13</p> <p>"A father is a guy who has snapshots in his wallet where his money used to be." ~Author Unknown.~</p>	<p>14</p> <p>FLAG DAY</p>	<p>15 Trappe UMC 29299 Maple Ave Bible Study 1:15 pm</p> <p>Scott's UMC Men's Study 7:30 pm</p>	<p>16 Trappe Planning Commission Mtg 7:30 pm</p> <p>Talbot County Library Bookmobile 3-3:45 pm At Entrance to Old Ballpark on Main Street</p> <p>SUMC 11 am Young at Heart SUMC 2 pm Mid Day Bible SUMC 7 pm Evening Bible</p> <p>EHS TCPS Mtg 7pm</p>	<p>17 Scott's UMC 5:30 pm Youth Praise Dept.</p> <p>AA Mtg. 6:30 pm St. Paul's</p> <p>Trappe VFD Line Dancing w/ Steve Moody 7-10pm</p>	<p>18 Seven Sisters Quilting TVFD 7 pm</p> <p>St Paul's 9:30 am Artist's Group</p>	<p>19 Scott's UMC Chicken BBQ</p>
<p>20 Happy Father's Day</p> <p>Trappe UMC 'Celebrating the Simpsons' Farewell Event Noon Catered by Brian Schmidt Advance Tickets required Elizabeth Ferguson 410-476-4858</p>	<p>21 Scott's UMC Vacation Bible School All are welcome 5-8 pm</p> <p>EHS Summer Service Learning Course 8-12 June 21 thru July 1</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Trappe UMC Bible Study 1:15 pm</p>	<p>23 Lion's Club Meeting TUMC 6:30pm</p> <p>SUMC 11 am Young at Heart SUMC 2 pm Mid Day Bible SUMC 7 pm Evening Bible</p>	<p>24 Scott's UMC 5:30 pm Youth Praise Dept.</p> <p>AA Mtg. 6:30 pm St. Paul's</p> <p>Trappe VFD Line Dancing w/ Steve Moody 7-10pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>St Paul's 9:30 am Artist's Group</p>	<p>26 Trappe UMC 7:30-10 am Country Church Breakfast</p> <p>Scott's UMC Chicken BBQ Family Fun Day 10-2 All are Welcome</p> <p>FHRB Park Youth Appreciation Day Sponsored by Talbot Family Network 1-5 pm</p>
<p>27 Scott's UMC Youth Day 3-5:30 pm All community youth</p> <p>June 27th thru 30th 6 to 8 pm nightly Talbot Evangelistic Church 6099 Ocean Gateway</p> <p>Kid's Camp 2004 "In search of..." Discovering the keys to unlocking God's treasures Games-Activities- Snacks-Songs-Prizes All kids age 6-12 (kids 3-5 must be w/adult) Call 410-822-8401 to register.</p>	<p>28 EHS Summer School Begins</p>	<p>29 Trappe UMC Bible Study 1:15 pm</p>	<p>30 Talbot County Library Bookmobile 3-3:45 pm At Entrance to Old Ballpark on Main Street</p>	<p>July 4th Trappe UMC Welcomes New Pastor At Sunday Service</p>	<div> <p>Strawberry Festival</p> <p>Trappe United Methodist Church</p> <p>Sat · June 5th · 12pm - 6pm</p> <p>Yard Sale, Bake Table & Festivities</p> <p>Food, Fun & Fellowship</p> <p>STRAWBERRIES & more STRAWBERRIES !!!</p> <p>Volunteers & Donations welcome</p> <p>Contact: Rose @ 410-476-5931 gardenstar@automatedcomputers.com</p> <p>Proceeds help send local children to Camp Pecometh in Centerville, MD</p> </div>	

Letter to the Editor,

The Index is a great addition to our town and Ann Dorbin is doing a fabulous job! Its wonderful to know about things going on in town and a good way to connect us

Yes! Yes! Yes! To a Library for Trappe.

We need one

And thanks so much for the update on Margaret Stevens. She was truly Trappe's Treasure and we miss her terribly—but how great to know she's well and going strong at 97 years. I think we should flood her with Birthday Cards. Mary Getsinger

YOUTH APPRECIATION DAY
Sponsored by the Talbot Family Network
June 26, 2004 ~ 1:00 to 5:00 Home Run Baker Park
**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE TRAPPE
VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANY**

Activities:
Softball Games
Basketball
Dunking Booth
Jumping Room

Demonstrations:
Brandy the State Police
Drug & Bomb-Sniffing
Fire Prevention Demos
Fire Trucks
Hoola Hoops

Special Guests:
Ebony Angels
Dave Rice, Sheriff's Dept.
Child Safety Seat Instruction
Recipients of Special Youth Awards
Caricature Drawings

We are also looking for donations from local businesses to help benefit TRAPPE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

For more information: James Hollis (410.476.3768) or
Barbara Coleman (410.476.3128 or crimescenechic@yahoo.com).

Signs of the times...



Keeping Kelly Drive Clean

Welcome message at your town planner, Frank Hall's new Office in the Town Hall Bldg..



Trappe Post Office gets a new look



Scotts UMC Seniors Hold Yard Sale



These signs are now posted near Scotts UMC. Nathaniel Hopkins is featured in the Maryland Civil War Trails inter-modal touring trails. "Nace" Hopkins was born a slave and later served in the U.S. Colored Troops. He returned home to help establish a celebration of Emancipation Day. So far, this is the only Talbot County site in the program. For more information, please contact Donald Brown, SUMC Chairperson of Trustees, at 410-476-3574



On May 16, 2004 the Trappe Alumni Association hosted its 47th annual Trappe High School reunion. More than 70 alumni and/or their representatives attended. Ora Griffen Seymour (Class of 1930) shared some of her memories.

In celebration of Earth and Arbor Days, WMES First Graders planted a Pink flowering dogwood tree on school grounds.



Firefighters serving up the May Town Dinner



Amy Lester, Erica Horney, April Byrnes & Julie Baynard: School's Out for Summer!



Spring means gardening: St. Paul's beautiful garden comes to life with a little help from a friend...



Free Blood-pressure screening with your meal

WMES students, along with faculty sponsor, Trishia Weiss (second from left) and Sherman, the Shorebirds mascot, display their "Hit the Books" banner just before the Shorebirds game on May 22nd



PICTURE GALLERY:

Doing What We Do Best: Work, Play, Worship & (of course) Eat ...

Line Dancing Lessons Come To The Trappe Vol. Fire Hall!



Put some real SPRING in your step this season. Steve Moody is moving his Line and Couples Dancing from the Easton National Guard Armory to their new home, the Trappe Vol. Fire Hall... every Thursday night from 7pm-10pm (beginners lessons begin at 6:45PM). The \$8.00 admission price includes three full hours of lessons, food, drink and fun, (for less than what you would pay for a single ticket to see an hour and half long movie). Just bring your dancing feet. There will also be plenty of tables and chairs set up, so that you can sit back and enjoy your snacks, drinks, and the company and conversation with all of your family and new friends that are to be made (when you need a breather).

There will be two line dance lessons taught each week, and one Couples lesson. The time in between all of the lessons will be used for the dancers to strut their stuff to all of the dances that they will have learned through the weeks and months to come. Anyone can do this...if you can count to 4 and walk, Steve will have you up and dancing on the first night. He has been a fully licensed dance instructor / dee jay for over a decade and has been teaching at some of Maryland's largest line and couples dancing venues. New Folks in attendance will learn all of the basics right from the start at 6:45PM, and then move on to learn all of the hottest and newest line and couples dances around in the weeks and months to come. This is not your "twangy" old country tunes night...everyone will be learning dances to a wide variety of music such as pop, disco, hot contemporary country, rock n roll, Latin, etc. You name the style of music and there is probably a line dance that can be done to it. Come out and join in the fun every Thursday, from 7pm-10pm. You have probably heard how much fun it is...now is the time to try it. You have never experienced anything like it, and you must try it for yourself to see why all of Steve's regulars love it. Now is the time...a brand new location, with brand new dancers, many starting from scratch, and all in the same boat. No one will feel out of place, so come and join Steve's extended family. You do NOT need a partner to do this...just a smile. Under 21 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Please no children under the age of 8. This is a smoke free event. For more information visit Steve Moody's Website on line at or call him at (410) 820-4493

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS:

JUNE 5th, 7-12 Yard Sale

JUNE 5th, 12:00 Chicken BBQ (roll, soda & chips \$7.00).
Call Tammy Quidas to place an order: 410.820.2979

JULY 14-17 It's Fair Time! Sponsored by TVFD & FHRBP
4th Annual Old Fashioned Family Fun Days
Carnival held at old ball park on Main Street.

NOTE: LOCAL VOLUNTEER ENTERTAINMENT
NEEDED FOR THE FAIR. Please contact Lou Diefenderfer
at 410.476.3882 or Nancy Dunn at 410.476.3274.

Talbot Soil Conservation District recently honored Hans Asmussen and Sons Inc as 2003 Cooperator of the Year. "The word 'cooperator' is a key, meaningful word that goes a long way toward describing people that we like to work with," said Teresa Kampmeyer, district conservationist. "It fits Eric Asmussen and his family farming enterprise very well. Eric's grandfather started this farming operation in the 1930s. Throughout the years, Eric and his family have participated in a cooperative way with many of our programs.



"One of the unusual farming practices that they have done recently is voluntarily retired land from farming and placed this land in grassed buffers," Kampmeyer continued. "This has been done without incentive or cost share from other agencies. They have chosen to protect sensitive areas that are vulnerable to erosion and nutrient run-off. They have done this on rented acreage as well as land that they own. Along with this voluntary action, they have protected other lands and waterways with enrollment in CREP."

On their home farm, the Asmussens have enrolled 42.6 acres of grass filter strips. They have particularly chosen lands that were subject to erosion from continuous row crops and erosion run-off. No-till farming and reduced tillage methods are used as conservation measures. They cost share on nutrient management and they have also been regular participants in the state cover crop program.

"Another area where Eric gets our appreciation," Kampmeyer said, "is communicating with us when he is contemplating changes in his operation that might impact applying his soil conservation and water conservation plans. This past spring when some fields that were planned for no-till were too rough for proper planting due to last fall's wet harvest conditions, Eric discussed what he needed to do and sought our advice on how to till with the least impact on the environment. We are always appreciating of that approach.

"It's no secret that some of the soils that they till are difficult to manage at best. The fact that this family has farmed as tenant farmers on the same Talbot County farms for nearly 40 years is a testimony to the fact that they are truly good stewards of our lands. They see the 'whole picture' when it comes to farming and not just their own self interest. Congratulations on doing such an outstanding job for many years."

(Reprinted with permission from the Feb. 3, 2004 edition of The Delmarva Farmer)

IN MEMORANDUM Esther Mae Simpson Nelson 1917-2004 *"By their fruits ye shall know them." ~ Faith, perseverance, and vision*

Esther Nelson, a lifelong resident of Trappe, passed away on April 28, 2004, at the age of 87. Born in Trappe on January 21, 1917, she was the daughter of the late Silas Edward and Sadie Mae Groves Simpson. She grew up assisting in the family poultry business and their general store, D.T. Simpson & Son. "Ducking" (gathering duck eggs and preparing them for market) was a favorite activity. After graduating from Trappe High School in 1934, she completed post graduate studies in bookkeeping and business. In 1943, Esther married Ira C. Nelson. During his decorated Army service at Normandy and other European arenas, she worked for Easton Wholesale. After the war, Esther and Ira were engaged in the broiler chicken business. In 1954 they founded Nelson Furniture Exchange, now known as Nelson Auction Gallery, Inc., where Esther remained very active until her death, enjoying warm relationships with many long-time customers.

Esther was an active member of Trappe United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. She was always busy with church activities, taught Sunday School, helped spearhead the construction of the church's fellowship hall, organized ham and turkey country dinners, and was famous for her home baked rolls baked for dinners and bake sales. She was very active in the Trappe Alumni Association, hosting many reunions in the showroom of the Auction Gallery. She was also a Life Member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Known for her tireless spirit and intense devotion to family and friends, she derived great joy in nurturing children and animals. Music as important in her life and she played piano for her Sunday School Class until a short time before her death. Esther's presence with her family and friends in her beloved Trappe will be greatly missed.

